AMENDMENT TO THE DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 6 of the application as originally filed with the following rewritten paragraph.

While the topsheet 24, the backsheet 26, and the absorbent core ~~26~~ 28 may be assembled in a variety of well known configurations, preferred diaper configurations are described generally in U.S. Pat. No. 3,860,003 entitled "Contractible Side Portions for Disposable Diaper" issued to Kenneth B. Buell on January 14, 1975; U.S. Pat. No. 5,151,092 issued to Buell on September 9, 1992; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,221,274 issued to Buell on June 22, 1993; and U.S. Pat. No. 5,554,145 entitled "Absorbent Article With Multiple Zone Structural Elastic-Like Film Web Extensible Waist Feature" issued to Roe et al. on September 10, 1996; U.S. Pat. No. 5,569,234 entitled "Disposable Pull-On Pant" issued to Buell et al. on October 29, 1996; U.S. Pat. No. 5,580,411 entitled "Zero Scrap Method For Manufacturing Side Panels For Absorbent Articles" issued to Nease et al. on December 3, 1996; and U.S. Patent No. 6,004,306 entitled "Absorbent Article With Multi-Directional Extensible Side Panels" issued to Robles et al. on December 21, 1999; each of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 at line 21 of the application as originally filed with the following rewritten paragraph.

The osmolality of urine is often measured in medical laboratories using either a freezing point osmometer (i.e., to measure freezing point depression) or a vapor pressure osmometer (i.e., to measure vapor pressure depression). Medical laboratories typically use a refractometer or hydrometer to measure the specific gravity ~~of~~ of urine. However, these laboratory-based approaches to measuring urine osmolality or specific gravity are time consuming and require specialized equipment and/or training. Since the specific gravity of urine is correlated to the ionic strength of the urine, measurements of urine ionic strength are commonly used to estimate specific gravity in rapid screening assessments for the presence or severity of dehydration in a human subject. Accordingly, the dehydration indicator of the present invention is preferably responsive to elevated urine ionic strength and preferably provides an estimate of the urine specific gravity.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7 at line 36 of the application as originally filed with the following rewritten paragraph.

For a given dehydration indicating composition 70, the specific color change associated with urine having various ionic strengths and specific gravities, ~~e.g.~~ i.e., various threshold values, must be determined via application of urine or synthetic urine having known specific gravities (preferably at the threshold values) and careful observation and recording of the resultant color of the dehydration indicating composition 70. Preferably, the interpretation of the signal by the caregiver is facilitated via a translucent mask 90, indicia on the dehydration indicator 60 functioning as a color key ~~110~~ as shown in Figure 8, a separate color key provided by the manufacturer, or any other visual means based on the defined color changes associated with the ionic strength/specific gravity threshold value(s) for the given dehydration indicating composition 70.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9 at line 3 of the application as originally filed with the following rewritten paragraph.

In certain alternate embodiments of the present invention, a nonlimiting example of which is depicted in Figure 9, the dehydration indicator 60 may be located in regions of the article other than the urine loading zone. In these embodiments, urine is transported to the urine indicator 60 from the urine loading zone by a fluid transport element ~~100~~ 160 in fluid communication with the dehydration indicator 60. In these embodiments, at least a portion of the fluid transport element ~~100~~ 160 is located in, or adjacent to, the urine loading zone in order to acquire fluid prior to transporting, e.g., wicking, fluid to the dehydration indicator 60. The fluid transport element ~~100~~ 160 may comprise any material or structure as known in the art which is capable of transporting fluid from the urine loading zone to the dehydration indicator. Suitable materials for the fluid transport element ~~100~~ 160 include cellulosic materials, e.g., fluff, airfelt, wetlaid fibers webs, tissues, foams, nonwovens, sponges, capillary channel fibers, and the like. Alternatively, the fluid transport element may comprise two or more layers of fluid impermeable material having one or more capillary openings between at least two of the layers, the capillary openings providing fluid communication between the urine source and the dehydration indicator.